IN THE CLAIMS:

- 1. A ball-and-socket joint, comprising:
- a housing;

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- a bearing shell inserted into said housing;
- a ball pivot with a joint ball mounted pivotally in all directions in said bearing shell;
 a sealing bellows between the housing and the ball pivot, said sealing bellows having a
 pivot-side edge area;
 - a ball race fixed on said ball pivot, and
- a sliding ring receiving said pivot-side edge area of said sealing bellows, said sliding ring being slidingly mounted in said ball race and having a sliding face facing the joint ball arranged adjacent to the ball race.
 - 2. A ball-and-socket joint in accordance with claim 1, wherein: said sliding ring includes a collar made in one piece with said sliding ring.
 - 3. A joint in accordance with claim 2, wherein: said collar engages said pivot-side edge area of said sealing bellows.
 - 4. A joint in accordance with claim 2, wherein:
 said collar is made in one piece with an inner side of said sliding ring, said sliding ring

cooperates with said pivot-side edge area of said sealing bellows in at least some areas.

- A joint in accordance with claim 1, wherein:
 said sliding ring includes an axial extension and a radial extension.
- 6. A joint in accordance with claim 1, wherein:
 said race and said sliding ring define a gap between said race and said sliding ring.
- said race and said sliding ring define a gap between said axial extension and a surface of said ball race.
 - 8. A ball-and-socket joint in accordance with claim 7, wherein:

7. A joint in accordance with claim 5, wherein:

said sliding ring has an approximately L-shaped cross section comprising an axial leg as said axial extension and a radial leg as said radial extension, said radial leg is in sliding contact with an inner surface of said ball race.

- 9. A ball-and-socket joint in accordance with claim 1, wherein: said ball race has an approximately U-shaped cross section.
- 10. A ball-and-socket joint in accordance with claim 1, wherein:

said sealing bellows has a surface slidingly in contact with a surface of said ball race.

11. A ball-and-socket joint in accordance with claim 10, wherein:

said surface of said sealing bellows which is in contact with said surface of said ball race has a sealing lip in contact with said surface of said ball race.

12. A ball-and-socket joint in accordance with claim 10, wherein:

said surface of said sealing bellows which is in contact with said surface of said ball race forms a labyrinth seal together with said surface of said ball race.

13. A ball-and-socket joint in accordance with claim 10, wherein:

said surface of said sealing bellows which is in contact with said surface of said ball race has a sealing lip and a second surface of said sealing bellows forms a labyrinth seal together with said surface of said ball race.

14. A ball-and-socket joint in accordance with claim 5, wherein:

said sliding ring is a shaped sheet metal part or a plastic molding;

said ball race is fixed to said ball pivot.

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said sliding ring receives and holds a portion of said sealing bellows between said radial and axial extensions;

said radial and axial extensions are substantially perpendicular to each other;

- 15. A ball-and-socket joint in accordance with claim 1, wherein:
 said ball race has a leg which is in contact with said sliding ring, said leg comprising lugs
 arranged at spaced locations from one another.
 - 16. A ball-and-socket joint in accordance with claim 1, wherein: said sliding ring has at least one radially extending slot.
- 17. A ball-and-socket joint in accordance with claim 1, wherein:
 said pivot-side edge area of said sealing bellows forms a thickened material bead, which
 is pressed against said ball race or said sliding ring with an elastic pretension.
 - 18. A joint in accordance with claim 1, wherein: said sliding ring has a disk shape.
 - 19. A joint in accordance with claim 1, wherein: said sliding ring is slotted.
 - 20. A ball-and-socket joint in accordance with claim 1, wherein: said sliding ring has an approximately L shaped cross section.
 - 21. A ball-and-socket joint in accordance with claim 1, wherein:

said sliding ring has an approximately T shaped cross section.

- 22. A ball-and-socket joint in accordance with claim 1, wherein: said sliding ring has an approximately F shaped cross section.
- 23. A ball-and-socket joint in accordance with claim 1, wherein: said sliding ring is vulcanized directly to said pivot-side edge area of said sealing bellows.
- 24. A ball-and-socket joint sealing connection for a joint having a housing, a bearing shell inserted into the housing and a ball pivot with a joint ball mounted movably in all directions in the bearing shell, the joint sealing connection comprising:

a sealing bellows connected between the housing and the ball pivot, said sealing bellows having a pivot-side edge area;

a ball race fixed on said ball pivot; and

a sliding ring receiving the pivot-side edge area of said sealing bellows, said sliding ring including an axial extension and a radial extension, said sliding ring being slidingly connected to said ball race and having a sliding face facing the joint ball arranged adjacent to the ball race.

25. A ball-and-socket joint, comprising:

a housing;

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- a bearing shell arranged in said housing
- a ball pivot with a joint ball mounted pivotally in said bearing shell;
- a sealing bellows arranged between said housing and said ball pivot, said sealing bellows including a pivot-side edge area;
 - a race fixed on said ball pivot; and

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- a sliding ring receiving said pivot-side edge area of said sealing bellows, said sliding ring being slidingly arranged in said race.
 - 26. A joint in accordance with claim 25, wherein:

said sliding ring has a sliding face facing the joint ball and arranged adjacent to said race, said sliding face of said ring sliding around said race.

27. A joint in accordance with claim 25, wherein:

said sliding ring is rotatable around said race and said ball pivot.